



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer-
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

At the meeting held May 18, 2004, the Board took the following action:

S-2

The Board received and filed and took under advisement requests and statements relating to the 2004-05 Proposed County Budget as follows:

1. Statement of Steve Cooley, District Attorney, regarding the District Attorney's 2004-05 proposed budget; the inability to hire new entry level prosecutors; and requesting that the Board not reduce his Department's budget. (Attachment).
2. Statements of the following individuals relating to proposed cuts to the Probation Department's budget for programs such as school-based supervision, Operation Read, post-disposition, aftercare; the proposed closure of Probation Camps, elimination of dollars for intensive anti-gang programs; the increase in adult-supervision and juvenile caseload sizes; and the elimination of pretrial services:

Ralph Miller	President of American Federation of State County Municipal Employees Local 685
Joe Stringer	Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now
Joe Nunez	Member of American Federation of State County Municipal Employees Local 685
Sue Klein	Member of American Federation of State County Municipal Employees Local 685
Jesse Avila	Member of American Federation of State County Municipal Employees Local 685
Bernard Cade	Member of American Federation of State County Municipal Employees Local 685
Norm Johnson	President of the Supervising Deputy Probation Officers' Association and Treasurer of Local 660
James Lewis	Member of American Federation of State County Municipal Employees Local 685
Carlos Clayton	Member of American Federation of State County Municipal Employees Local 685
Jimall Thrower	Member of American Federation of State County Municipal Employees Local 685

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3. Statements of the following individuals relating to proposed funding cuts to HIV/AIDS health care services and requesting the Board to restore the \$3.3 million lost in Federal Ryan White Title I funds to continue providing these vital services:

Terri Ford	Director of Advocacy, AIDS Healthcare Foundation, Inc.
Jessie Gruttadauria	Co-chair of the Public Policy Committee for the California Advocacy Coalition
Victor Martinez	Director of Prevention and Education - Beinestar Human Services
Roger Spivy	Client of AIDS Healthcare Foundation, Inc.
Louis Rafti	Client of AIDS Healthcare Foundation, Inc.
Reverend Mike Nikolaus	Pastor of Metropolitan Community Church and Client of AIDS Healthcare Foundation, Inc.
Rebekka Armstrong	Client of AIDS Healthcare Foundation, Inc.
Oliver Luettgenu	Client of AIDS Healthcare Foundation, Inc.
Matt Moran	Client of AIDS Healthcare Foundation, Inc.
Jackie Bulczak	Client of AIDS Healthcare Foundation, Inc.

After discussion on motion of Supervisor Knabe, seconded by Supervisor Antonovich, unanimously carried, the Board took the following actions:

1. Received and filed and took under advisement various supplemental budget requests and comments made during the public budget hearings which commenced on May 12, 2004;
2. Made a finding that a notice of public budget hearings was given in accordance with Section 29080 of the Government Code, that said hearings commenced on the 12th day of May 2004 pursuant to said notice and as required by Section 29081 of the Government Code;
3. Closed the public budget hearings for purposes of oral testimony, finding that there are no persons who have not been given the opportunity to be heard; but to allow maximum public input, permit additional written testimony and requests to be filed through the close of business, Friday, May 21, 2004; and

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4. Reconfirmed that Budget Deliberations will begin on Monday, June 21, 2004 at 9:30 a.m.

Attachment

R:\2004-05 Budget\05-18-04 S-2.doc

- c: Each Supervisor
District Attorney
Auditor-Controller
Chief Administrative Officer
Chief Probation Officer
County Counsel
Director of Health Services

REMARKS BY DISTRICT ATTORNEY STEVE COOLEY*
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS BUDGET HEARING
TUESDAY, MAY 18, 2004 - 1:00 P.M.

GOOD AFTERNOON MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF
THE BOARD.

THIS DATE MARKS MY FOURTH ANNUAL APPEARANCE
BEFORE YOUR BOARD CONCERNING THE BUDGET. MY
REPORT REFLECTS THE CURRENT SITUATION IN THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE,

ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY SHARON
MATSUMOTO AND DIRECTOR WILLIAM MANGAN ARE HERE
TO ASSIST IN RESPONDING TO ANY QUESTIONS YOU MAY
HAVE AT THE CONCLUSION OF MY REMARKS.

I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR ALLOWING ME THE
ACCOMMODATION IN THE BUDGET HEARING SCHEDULE,
SO THAT I MAY APPEAR AT THIS TIME.

* Cooley stands by this text but may depart from it.

AS PART OF THE ACCOUNTABLE PARTNERSHIP
BETWEEN MY DEPARTMENT AND EACH OF YOUR OFFICES
IN THE MUTUAL RESPONSIBILITIES WE SHARE, TWO
THINGS ARE ESSENTIAL:

FIRST, IT IS IMPORTANT FOR ME TO REPORT ON THE
PRESENT ABILITIES OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE.

SECONDLY, TO IDENTIFY REQUESTS FOR FUNDING
AND FOR YOU TO CONSIDER AND DELIBERATE UPON
BEFORE SETTING THE FINAL BUDGET FOR MY
DEPARTMENT.

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DECLARES THAT:

"THE PROTECTION OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY IS THE
FIRST RESPONSIBILITY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND
LOCAL OFFICIALS HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO GIVE PRIORITY
TO THE PROVISION OF ADEQUATE PUBLIC SAFETY
SERVICES."

THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY IS NOT ONLY A CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICE. BUT IT IS ALSO INTEGRAL TO DELIVERING PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICES. THEREFORE, FUNDING FOR THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY SHOULD BE A PRIORITY ITEM WHEN DETERMINING ITS BUDGET.

UNLIKE SOME ENTITIES THAT CAN REDUCE SERVICES AS A RESULT OF BUDGET CUTS, WE DO NOT HAVE THE LUXURY OF WHOLESALE REFUSING TO PROSECUTE CASES BROUGHT TO US.

IT IS OUR OBLIGATION AND DUTY TO FILE AND PROSECUTE PROPERLY INVESTIGATED CASES BROUGHT TO US BY LAW ENFORCEMENT.

FRONT-LINE LAW ENFORCEMENT IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY WILL NOT BE EFFECTIVE IN THE LONG RUN WITHOUT RELIABLE AND ADEQUATE PROSECUTORIAL RESOURCES TO BACK UP THEIR ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES.

THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM REQUIRES A BALANCE OF RESOURCES TO ENSURE THAT CRIMINALS OF ALL SORTS ARE IDENTIFIED, ARRESTED, PROSECUTED AND APPROPRIATELY PUNISHED.

IN THE NEARLY FOUR YEARS SINCE I HAVE BEEN THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY, MY OFFICE HAS DONE AN EXCELLENT JOB OF CONTROLLING COSTS AND LIVING WITHIN EVER SIGNIFICANTLY DECREASING BUDGETS.

WE HAVE REORGANIZED, PRIORITIZED, AND CONSOLIDATED. WE HAVE IMPLEMENTED THOUGHTFUL POLICIES AND MADE PERSONNEL ASSIGNMENTS AND TRANSFERS TO MAXIMIZE PRODUCTIVITY.

BUT WE HAVE NOW COME TO THAT POINT WHERE WE HAVE DONE EVERYTHING WE CAN DO.

PAST BUDGETS HAVE NOT ALLOWED ME TO HIRE EVEN ONE NEW ENTRY LEVEL PROSECUTOR SINCE I TOOK OFFICE. THIS IS VIRTUALLY UNPRECEDENTED IN OUR OFFICE'S 153-YEAR HISTORY. TODAY WE HAVE 12

PERCENT FEWER EMPLOYEES THAN WHEN I BECAME THIS COUNTY'S DISTRICT ATTORNEY IN DECEMBER 2000. THERE ARE 127 FEWER PROSECUTORS THAN FOUR YEARS AGO. AS OF APRIL 1 WE HIT OUR 2003-04 BUDGET CURTAILMENT ATTRITION TARGET AND WE ARE STILL LOSING PERSONNEL.

WHILE STAFFING HAS DECREASED OVER THE PAST FOUR YEARS, THE WORKLOAD HAS INCREASED.

MY DEPARTMENT REVIEWED AND HANDLED ALMOST 96,000 ADULT FELONY CASES IN 2003. WE PROCESSED NEARLY 25,000 JUVENILE MATTERS. IN ADDITION, WE HANDLED MORE THAN 200,000 MISDEMEANORS THAT OCCURRED IN 77 CITIES AND UNINCORPORATED AREAS. THE NUMBER OF FELONY CASES FILED INCREASED BY NEARLY 10 PERCENT OVER 2002.

DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEYS ARE UPHOLDING THIS OFFICE'S CONSTITUTIONAL MANDATE EVERYDAY WITH

MORE CASES TO HANDLE BUT WITH SUBSTANTIALLY LESS PERSONNEL.

ON ANY GIVEN DAY, WE MUST STAFF BETWEEN 220 AND 230 SUPERIOR COURTS. A PROSECUTOR MUST BE PREPARED TO REPRESENT THE PEOPLE IN THOSE COURTS. THOSE PROSECUTORS MUST BE BACKED BY EXPERIENCED STAFF INCLUDING EXPERIENCED PROSECUTORS TO REVIEW AND FILE THE CRIMINAL CASES BROUGHT TO OUR OFFICE BY THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AND REGULATORY AGENCIES WITH WHOM WE WORK. FILING IS A CRITICAL STAGE IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROCESS AND MUST BE ACCOMPLISHED WITHIN STRICT TIME FRAMES.

OUR LINE OPERATIONS -- THE DEPUTIES WHO WORK IN THE CENTRAL BUREAU, THE TEN BRANCH COURTS AND FOURTEEN AREA COURTS AS GENERAL PROSECUTORS -- HAVE BEEN REDUCED BY 23 PERCENT IN THE LAST FOUR YEARS.

WHY HAVE LINE OPERATIONS BEEN HIT SO HARD?

OUR MANY CONTRACTUAL COMMITMENTS TO MAINTAIN

STAFFING FOR OUTSIDE REVENUE FUNDED UNITS

REQUIRE~~S~~ US TO PLACE DWINDLING RESOURCES IN THOSE

ASSIGNMENTS FIRST. THE RESULT IS WHENEVER WE ARE

HIT WITH REDUCTIONS FROM ANY SOURCE -- WORKERS

COMPENSATION COSTS, RETIREE HEALTH INCREASES,

UNMET NEEDS NOT FUNDED, STATE AND FEDERAL

PROGRAM CURTAILMENTS -- COUNTY-FUNDED LINE

OPERATIONS MUST ABSORB THESE LOSSES.

SPECIALIZED VERTICAL PROSECUTION EFFORTS HAVE

BEEN HARD HIT AS WELL. BUDGET CUTS HAVE RESULTED

IN A NEARLY 30 PERCENT REDUCTION IN OUR HARDCORE

GANG PERSONNEL (62-44). THESE ARE DIFFICULT CASES

THAT REQUIRE THE EFFORTS OF OUR MOST TALENTED

PROSECUTORS. AND YET, DUE TO CUTBACKS OVER THE

PAST THREE YEARS IN FEDERAL, STATE AND COUNTY

REVENUES, WE NO LONGER ARE ABLE TO DEVOTE THE NECESSARY NUMBER OF PROSECUTORS TO GANG PROSECUTION.

THE ATTORNEY REDUCTIONS I HAVE JUST OUTLINED ARE A REFLECTION OF THE DIFFICULT DECISIONS MADE IN THE PAST FOUR YEARS IN ORDER TO INCREMENTALLY COPE WITH EVER-DIMINISHING BUDGETS.

MY URGENT REQUEST TO YOUR BOARD IS THAT YOU RECOGNIZE THE NEED TO REVERSE WHAT HAS OCCURRED AND THAT THERE BE NO FURTHER CUTS IN THE 2004-05 BUDGET.

WE MUST HIRE A MINIMUM OF 20 ATTORNEYS BEFORE THE END OF 2004 TO HOLD OUR OWN.

WE MUST ONCE AND FOR ALL ADDRESS THE INORDINATELY HIGH AND UNREALISTIC SALARY SAVINGS FACTOR. THIS ACCOUNTING DEVICE IS CANNABILIZING OUR OPERATIONS.

EACH OF YOUR SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS IS NOT BEING WELL SERVED BY THE REDUCTION OF PROSECUTORIAL RESOURCES -- FROM POMONA TO PACIFIC PALISADES, FROM LANCASTER TO LONG BEACH.

IF I CAN HIRE 40 PROSECUTORS IN ADDITION TO KEEPING PACE WITH ATTRITION, I COMMIT TO FULFILL THE WORTHWHILE OBJECTIVES OF THE INTERAGENCY GANG TASK FORCE BY INCREASING THE NUMBER OF GANG PROSECUTORS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTY TO WORK WITH I.G.T.F. AND I WILL NOT PULL PROSECUTORS FROM FIVE C.L.E.A.R. SITES SCHEDULED FOR CLOSURE JUNE 30 DUE TO SUBSTANTIAL REDUCTIONS IN STATE AND FEDERAL FUNDING.

WITH YOUR HELP, AND WORKING TOGETHER, WE CAN CONTINUE TO BE EFFECTIVE FOR THE PEOPLE.

THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE MUST BE
ALLOWED TO ACCOMPLISH ITS CONSTITUTIONALLY
MANDATED OBLIGATIONS.

PUBLIC SAFETY REQUIRES IT AND OUR COMMUNITIES
DESERVE IT.

I WILL BE HAPPY TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS.

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